

prime sponsor of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act and was honored to champion this bill in an effort to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to protect the sanctity of life by voting "yes" on the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

□ 1815

WHAT A RENEGOTIATED NAFTA COULD MEAN FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during the August recess, I held a field hearing in Ohio to hear firsthand accounts from American workers and farmers and all our constituents on what a renegotiated NAFTA could mean for jobs in Ohio and America.

At the end of my remarks, I will include in the RECORD the testimony of Roger Wise, of the Ohio and National Farmers Union, and Nick "Sonny" Nardi, of the Teamsters Local 416 in Greater Cleveland.

Roger discussed the loss of American jobs to low-wage workers south of the border, and Nick emphasized the need to overhaul U.S. trade policy, including outlawing child labor, with stronger labor rights and true enforcement, calling for a tri-national Labor Secretariat to hear and resolve labor issues.

I am grateful for their contributions, as only by listening to those who have witnessed the effects of bad trade agreements can we move forward and bring jobs back to America and prevent exploitation of workers abroad.

TESTIMONY OF ROGER WISE, OHIO AND
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

(August 3, 2017 NAFTA Remarks)

Good afternoon. Thank you Rep. Kaptur, Elizabeth of the Citizens Trade Campaign and President Mark Payne, Local 1250 for hosting this very timely event about this very important topic.

My name is Roger Wise and I am a 4th generation full-time family farmer and have been so for more than 40 years. I am here today on behalf of the Ohio and National Farmers Union. NFU is the oldest active farm organization in the country, advocating since 1902. Ohio has been chartered since 1934.

Nationally we represent over 200,000 family farmers and ranchers and fishers. Here in Ohio we tout 2500 of those members. Four of them are here with me today, Marge and Mardy Townsend from Astabula County, and of course Congresswoman Kaptur.

The Farmers Union organization works through grassroots driven policy to improve the well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers, fishers and rural communities. Each year at our national fly in we bestow on like-minded members of Congress our most prestigious award, the Golden Triangle. Rep. Kaptur has received it more than 25 years running, more than any other legislator; and we are grateful for her support.

I remember vividly when the Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz declared the United

States would plant "fence row to fence row" and we would export our nation to prosperity and feed the world along the way. That 70's expansion lasted only a few years because American farmers soon produced massive surpluses, interest rates, inflation and input costs skyrocketed, prices plummeted and competing countries developed their own farming techniques. The farm crises of the 80's began and lasted for the next 25 years. Farm program payments accounted for 50% of farm income. The mantra was that profit came in "economies of scale", and we must "get big or get out". Many family farmers and ranchers did exactly that, some by choice, many by the force of the bank.

Trade agreement seeds were planted and gathered momentum in the 80's.

NAFTA was the poster child. Assurances were given that no jobs would be lost, in fact, many more would be created; and the economies of the United States, Mexico and Canada would explode for the benefit of the people in all 3 countries. President Clinton signed on to the agreement ensuring us this would be the economic model for the world.

Now, 25 years later we know the rosey assumptions and predictions did not play out in reality like they did on paper. American workers lost their manufacturing jobs to low wage Mexican workers who were also decimated product quality eroded, unions were decimated, family farmers either quit or were forced out of business, the middle class began to shrink and the trade deficit began to climb.

Agriculture, however, through it all was championed because the United States consistently enjoyed trade surpluses primarily from corn and soy exports. Unfortunately though, family farmers, ranchers, and consumers did not benefit from NAFTA. With the exception of the boom year 2008-2013, which were due to the Renewable Fuel Standard, not NAFTA, close inspection reveals vertically integrated multi-national companies reaped the profits while farmers in all 3 countries saw margins decline to the point of non-profitability; and all the while our trade deficits soared. Additionally, trade deals opened the door to consolidation and mega-mergers which led to less competition, non-competitive markets, higher costs, fewer choices and reduced research and development. An example of the latter is herbicide weed resistance.

For decades Country of Origin Labelling, "COOL" has been the signature issue the Farmers Union. We pushed for its passage with great vigor because it benefits producers and 95% of consumers support it. Simply, it requires beef pork and poultry to be labeled with the country from which these products came. Rep. Kaptur has been indefatigable promoting this issue. In fact, she is more steadfast supporting and promoting COOL than any congressperson in D.C. and we are grateful for her efforts. This requirement is not unique and this virtually all of our trading partners have a form of COOL and all of them are WTO compliant.

Our coalition efforts paid off in 2002, when COOL was included in the Farm Bill. Unfortunately, special interests, uncaring about its popularity and practicality, lobbied to prevent its funding and the measure was not implemented. Our efforts continued and in the 2008 Farm Bill COOL was mandatory and it became law of the land.

Again special interests went to work to derail the law. They challenged it 3 times in Federal Court and lost each time. Undeterred and well financed, Canada and Mexico were coerced into filing suit with the WTO. Ironically, the tribunal was chaired by none other than Mexico. With the deck clearly stacked against us, our case was lost and Congress, under bogus threats of economic reprisals repealed COOL.

For NAFTA to be meaningfully renegotiated, re-instating COOL must be a high priority for the benefit of farmers and consumers.

Food production and its safety are national security issues as well as an economic ones. Trade agreements have led to reduced border inspections of food imports. Further, these agreements have deemed other countries less stringent safety regulations adequate for our import inspections. This relaxing of regulations puts our farmers and ranchers at a disadvantage because our products are routinely of higher quality.

Currency manipulation and the overvalued U.S. dollar makes our exports more expensive relegating us to the supplies of last resort which also adds to the trade deficit.

Farmers and ranchers were not helped by America's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. Farmers are poised to help mitigate climate change both here and around the world through conservation, carbon sequestration and other initiatives to assure sustainability for decades to come. Climate change must be part of any meaningful trade agreement based on public funded, peer reviewed science based research.

To conclude, the record must be clear. NFU is not anti trade or protectionist. We are keenly aware that the economy is global and trade is a critical component of world economics. We do, however, believe that trade deals should benefit farmers and workers in all counties. Living wages, competitive markets, with safety and welfare in the work place guaranteed; and all nations must strive for a clean and healthy environment to preserve our planet for centuries hence. Only then will trade be fair and our deficit decline.

Thank you

NAFTA FIELD HEARING WITH REP. MARCY
KAPTUR

TESTIMONY OF NICK "SONNY" NARDI,
PRESIDENT, TEAMSTERS LOCAL 416

Good afternoon. My name is Sonny Nardi and I am president of Teamsters Local 416 in Cleveland.

In May 2000, 320 Teamsters got laid off from the Mr. Coffee plant in Glenwillow, about 20 miles east of here. Their jobs went to Mexico because of the North American "so-called" Free Trade Agreement.

My Local, Teamsters 416, lost hundreds of jobs to NAFTA

—120 jobs at HOSPECO on 79th and Carnegie in Cleveland,

—60 jobs at Muller Electric on Pain Avenue in Cleveland

—96 jobs in Bedford Heights, The Mr. Coffee Filter Division

—115 jobs at Blue Coral Car Wax in Maple Heights

These were all good paying jobs with benefits and many were inner city jobs, workers could walk to work and had much tenure.

Most of these guys, because their production jobs were simply shifted to Mexican plants, were eligible for some federal benefits under a narrow NAFTA program called "Trade Adjustment Assistance," or TAA. Here in Ohio, under NAFTA TAA, more than 150,000 workers have been certified as lost their jobs due to offshoring—plant relocation like Mr. Coffee—or because of increased imports from Mexico and Canada that reduce production and jobs at American companies.

But, as everybody knows, the TAA totals are the tip of the iceberg because that program certifies only the manufacturing jobs that we have lost because of NAFTA—not the services jobs that depend on a strong manufacturing base.

So, when you factor in those jobs, as well as the manufacturing jobs Ohio has lost due to our flawed and failed so-called "free

trade" policies, than Ohio. And, on a personal note, as a longtime northern Ohio Teamster leader, there aren't many Local unions that have been decimated, the way 416 has, by NAFTA.

And on another point of personal privilege, I want to say that American workers, not just here in Cleveland but all over the country, have had no better friend, no greater ally, than Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

Some folks here are probably too young to remember the NAFTA Accountability Act back in the mid-90s. That was Marcy Kaptur shining a legislative light on the NAFTA disaster even as the jobs were staring to flow south.

That's why this field hearing is so important and that's why the renegotiation of NAFTA is an historic opportunity.

So I want to spend a couple of minutes on how we can overhaul the NAFTA to begin to repair the damage. Specifically, I want to describe some things that must be included in a new NAFTA, new Chapters, as well as some old parts of NAFTA that must come out.

But let me be really clear at the outset: if the Trump trade team does not renegotiate NAFTA in a thorough way that works for workers, then the US should quit the deal altogether.

I can't speak for the other folks on this panel today, but the Teamsters demand a complete overhaul of the NAFTA model. No cut-n-paste of the Trans-Pacific-Partnership, no tweaking around the edges. We want a NAFTA upgrade that puts in interests of working families first and foremost.

To achieve this goal, the top priority has to be a new Labor Rights Chapter to replace the weak and unenforceable side agreement added to NAFTA to get Congress to support ratification in 1993.

When it comes to North American worker rights, we've got to level the playing field, so Mexican workers and union organizers have the same rights we take for granted up here. That will reduce the incentive for corporations to relocate jobs down there, if they can't oppress labor or avoid collective bargaining.

The new NAFTA must prohibit child labor and forced labor and protect the freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively through independent unions. Further, those fundamental labor rights must be enforceable by the same or better trade sanctions that protect commercial interests.

Moreover, a truly modernized NAFTA should establish a process to determine basic living wage rates in all regions of all free countries and an enforcement mechanism to guarantee a decent standard of living, including to save for retirement.

All these basic labor rights and the sanctions that protect them and the commitment to living wage must be enforced by an independent tri-national labor secretariat that can hear labor cases and resolve them on behalf of all workers, including migrant workers.

Last point on labor: this new NAFTA chapter will serve as a template for future negotiations, so it is crucial that America get it right this time.

Another new chapter that must be part of the NAFTA replacement model is Currency. One of the reasons we could not support the TPP was the previous administration refused to include enforceable disciplines against currency manipulation.

America has learned the hard way how our trading partners manage their currencies against the dollar to increase their exports to us (and limit imports from us), which increases our trade deficits, which costs American jobs. We're not saying that Mexico or Canada is currently manipulating their currencies. But we are saying that a replace-

ment trade model that we will support must finally address the issue of currency misalignment.

Let me finish by mentioning a couple bad NAFTA provisions that must come out during renegotiation.

The first is Government Procurement, which is NAFTA chapter 10. It has undermined "Buy American" laws by requiring the federal government to treat foreign bidders as if they were US bidders. To Buy American is to Hire American; that's how it works, and we want our jobs back and our tax dollars spent at home.

Going into these new NAFTA talks, the U.S. should retract all procurement commitments that undermine responsible bidding standards and all domestic or local preferences. Teamsters and taxpayers from both sides of the partisan divide support "Buy American"—and we don't want the new NAFTA to weaken that economic policy, especially as we look forward to the infrastructure investment that this country needs so badly.

The second thing that must come out is the controversial system of private corporate courts that protect foreign investors. NAFTA's chapter 11 introduced so-called "investor-state dispute settlement" (ISDS) into our "free trade" deals, giving foreign companies superior rights over U.S. firms.

ISDS undermines the rule of law and facilitates offshoring by creating unique privileges and secretive arbitration chambers in which foreign investors, but not American firms, can challenge laws the claim will cut profits.

A third bad provision, of particular interest to the Teamsters, is in Chapter 12, which deals with trade in services. The old NAFTA opened up American highways to unsafe Mexican-domiciled long-haul carriers.

We and our allies like Advocates for Highway Safety, the Sierra Club and the Owner-Operator Independent Truckers, have fought for many years, in the Congress and in the courts, to keep that provision from being fully implemented.

The original intent of the NAFTA negotiators was to keep US interstates closed to Mexican carries until the safety of the trucks and drivers could be certified. That never happened. Accordingly, we call on the new NAFTA RE-negotiators to end this controversy once and for all. The new NAFTA should require Mexican-domiciled trucks to transfer their loads to US trucks in the 20 mile wide border commercial zone.

In conclusion, I have named two new chapters that must be included in NAFTA 2.0 and three bad aspects that must come out—five reforms that will keep and create middle class jobs and help America lead the way towards a new trade policy program, a template for all future international commercial agreements.

But, seeing as we are enjoying the hospitality of our UAW brothers and sisters here in Local 1250, I want to mention one last NAFTA fix.

The Rules of Origin for autos and auto parts should be beefed up. The "regional value content" should be raised and all loopholes closed. In order to enjoy the low tariffs and NAFTA market access, all cars and trucks that are made in the three countries should not have components that are made in other countries where wages are suppressed by companies that oppress workers and pay them less than their labor is worth.

That solidarity is what this opportunity is all about. Autoworkers and Steelworkers and Machinists and Teamsters, the labor unions that have had the worst experience under NAFTA and now have the greatest stake in real overhaul in its renegotiation. We must stand in solidarity with our broth-

ers and sisters in the independent unions in Canada and Mexico. And, in turn, all of labor must stand in solidarity with environmental activists, consumer advocates and the family farmers.

Together, we have been fighting NAFTA and its expansion for a generation. Now we can work together, with our allies in Congress, to finally fix it.

Thank You

HONORING JIM POWELL ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Jim Powell, of Johnson City, Tennessee, for his 80th birthday.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Jim has devoted his life to many worthy endeavors, such as helping students achieve their dreams of attending college.

Growing up, Jim never dreamed of going to college until a teacher helped him apply for a scholarship to the University of Tennessee. Eleven years later, Jim and his wife, Sandy, opened Powell Construction Company, which has been successfully operating for the past 48 years and employs more than 500 people.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without the kind encouragement of Jim's teacher. In an effort to pay that kindness forward, Jim created the Powell Foundation, which has provided over 4,000 scholarships to the University of Tennessee and to East Tennessee State University.

Our community is a better place to live and work because of Jim and Sandy Powell. Jim exemplifies the Volunteer spirit. I commend him for his selfless contributions to east Tennessee, and wish him nothing but the best on his 80th birthday.

Happy birthday, Jim.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

(Mr. GOMEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of one of my constituents, Michelle Vo, who lost her life in Sunday's mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Michelle was described by her friends and family as an ambitious, hard worker, known for her charisma and fierce independence. She embodied the American Dream in every single way. Her middle name, My, means "America" in Vietnamese.

Her mother emigrated from Vietnam and raised Michelle and her sisters near San Jose. Michelle would go on to graduate from UC Davis before moving to Eagle Rock, in my district, to work as an insurance agent in nearby Pasadena.